

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Examiner indicates that Claims 1-35 are pending, when in fact claim 10 has previously been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-9 and 11-35 are pending in the present application.

Drawings

Applicants repeat their request that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings filed on February 25, 2002, are acceptable.

Claim Amendments

Claim 34 is amended to correct a typographical error. By way of this response, Claims 27-29 and 33 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 36-38 are newly added. The newly added claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and incorporate the limitations of now-cancelled Claims 27-29, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants assert that no new subject matter has been added through these amendments.

Restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121

Initially, Applicants clarify the characterization of the two separate inventions listed by the Examiner. Further to a conversation with the Examiner on January 10, 2006, Applicants clarify that Invention I (*i.e.*, Claims 1-26, 30-32, and 34-35) should be described as directed to a system for network key management, and Invention II (*i.e.*, Claims 27-29, and 33)

should be described directed to retrieving values from a database. During the telephone conversation on January 19, 2006, Examiner acknowledged mistakenly inverting the characterization of the two inventions. Applicants' response to this Action is based on the clarified characterization of the inventions.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect either Invention I (*i.e.*, Claims 1-9, 11-26, 30-32, and 34-35) or Invention II (*i.e.*, Claims 27-29, and 33). Applicants elect Invention I (*i.e.*, Claims 1-9, 11-26, 30-32, and 34-35) for further prosecution without traverse.

Newly Added Claims

Because newly added Claims 36-38 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, Applicants believe these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 (as detailed in the response to Office Action dated September 14, 2005¹).

¹ Examiner mistakenly indicates Applicants arguments were filed on September 28, 2005. In fact, the response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2005 was filed September 14, 2005.

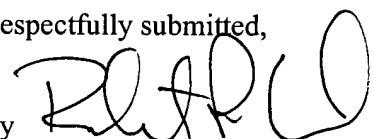
Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0591 under Reference No. 09469/014001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By



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